

efforts will facilitate the development of North American standards and, as appropriate, the removal of differences in standards.

- To enhance clarity and compatibility of energy regulation, Canadian, U.S. and Mexican regulators began regular meetings to exchange information on regulatory standards and energy market developments and to discuss bringing gas from Alaska to the North American market.
- To reduce marine air pollution, Canada and the United States have coordinated data collection, marine inventory development and air quality monitoring. The two countries are preparing to approach the International Maritime Organization to designate special areas for controlling sulfur emissions from marine vessels.
- Canada and the United States are developing Mutual Assistance Arrangements, which will enhance our preparedness for cross-border public health emergencies; Mexico has been invited to participate.

[NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.]

Statement on the Earthquakes in Iran

March 31, 2006

On behalf of the American people, Laura and I express our sincere condolences for the loss of life and suffering caused by the series of earthquakes in the Iranian province of Luristan. Our thoughts and prayers are with families and individuals who have lost loved ones. The United States stands ready to assist the people of Iran, and we hereby extend an offer of humanitarian assistance.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

March 26

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

March 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald S. Cooper to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry R. Hoglander and Peter W. Tredick to be members of the National Mediation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Molly A. O'Neill to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Environmental Information.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: John Nau (General Public); D. Franklin Arey III (General Public); Alan Autry; and Matt Blunt.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marilyn Castor Machon Pattillo and Frank Jao as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Ricardo Barraza, Jr.; Herbert Bartlett; Sharman Word Dennis; Carmela Vargas Gonzales; Harris N. Hollin; Casey Patrick O'Halloran; Thomas J. Reilly;

Steven C. Rhatigan; Neil Romano; and Dallas Rob Sweezy.

March 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with outgoing Prime Minister Percival James Patterson of Jamaica to commend him for his distinguished service. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister-designate Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica to congratulate her on taking office.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress who had recently visited Iraq.

During the day, the President met with President-elect Rene Preval of Haiti.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by tornadoes and severe storms on March 11–13.

March 29

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel to congratulate him on his party's success in the recent election. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities. Later, he participated in a photo opportunity with Spring 2006 White House interns. He then traveled to Cancun, Mexico.

March 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, the President traveled to Chichen-Itza, Mexico, where he toured the Chichen-Itza archaeological ruins. He then returned to Cancun, Mexico.

In the evening, at the Fiesta Americana Condesa Cancun Hotel, the President had dinner with President Vicente Fox of Mexico and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada.

The President announced his nomination of Daniel L. Cooper to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

March 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Fiesta Americana Condesa Cancun Hotel, he participated in a meeting with American, Canadian, and Mexican chief executive officers to discuss the North American economy. He then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his appointment of Dana M. Perino as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary.

The President announced his appointment of Kenneth A. Lisaius as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary.

The President announced his appointment of Christopher G. Michel as Special Assistant to the President for Speechwriting.

The President announced his appointment of Blain Rethmeier as Special Assistant to the President for Communications.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 27

Ronald S. Cooper,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of 4 years, vice Eric S. Dreiband, resigned.

Harry R. Hoglander,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2008 (reappointment).

Michael D. Kirby,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.